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1085

# Coinage, or Mint,

PROPOSED.

The Parliament of *Ireland's* Address,

AND THE

## King's Answer thereunto,

RELATING TO THE COINING

Copper Half-Pence *and* Farthings

*For this Nation.*

WITH

*Several Reasons and Observations,*

SHEWING

The great Necessity there is for such a COIN; and a *Scheme* laid Down, demonstrating that the NATION will have an Increase in Cash, as well Gold and Silver, as Copper-Money, of *Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Pounds*, sterl. by means thereof: And that the said Summ may be deemed all Profit to the Kingdom.

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By JAMES MACULLA<sup>K</sup> of the City of Dublin,  
*Artificer in divers Mettals, Viz. Pewter, Brass, and Copper, &c.*

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# A Catalogue of the Proposals, &c.

The following are the proposals for the improvement of the coinage, which have been presented to the House of Commons, and are now under the consideration of the Committee appointed for that purpose. The proposals are of a general nature, and relate to the improvement of the coinage in all respects, and are not confined to any particular branch of the coinage. The proposals are of a general nature, and relate to the improvement of the coinage in all respects, and are not confined to any particular branch of the coinage.



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INTENTION of the Proposals, in this Kingdom, that a public Coinage

## A Coinage, or MINT Propos'd, &c.



THE PROPOSER having duly Consider'd the *Miseries of the Kingdom of Ireland*, occasion'd by the want of small Change, and a Coinage of *Half-pence and Farthings* therein; and there being great Quantities of *Ore and Mine* in the same, which might not only be Employ'd in that *Manufacture*, but other profitable Uses, hath conceived it his Indispensible Duty, not only for the Interest and Benefit of his Majesty, but of that Country whereof he is a *Native and Subject*, to publish his *Humble Thoughts* relating thereto; and to Demonstrate, how Beneficial such a Coinage wou'd be to the *Crown and Nation*, not only in paying off the 50000 l. Debt of the Kingdom, but by adding 200000 l. *sterl.* to the circulating *Specie*, as an increase of the Cash thereof. He hath Proposed a *SCHEME* in a Paper he has lately Drawn-up, and caused to be Printed, (Intituled, *PROPOSALS for a Publick Coinage of Half-pence and Farthings in the Kingdom of Ireland*;) and Hopes it will Evidently appear to such Readers thereof, (as will impartially Consider the same) to be *ONE* of the most Beneficial *SCHEMES* that hath been yet Propos'd to the Nation on that Head.

BUT lest the said Paper may have come to the perusal of some Persons, who are unacquainted with the *Author's Ability or Sincerity* in an Undertaking of that kind, and that the same may seem so high, as to occasion some Doubts to arise, which may prevent that *Good Undertaking*, and promote a *Spurious Coin*, which may tend to the *Ruin and almost Famine* of thousands of the *POOR* of the Kingdom, and vast prejudice of Trade therein :

THEREFORE, the *Author* proposes to make good his said *Scheme*, and Maintain and Support the same : And humbly Conceives, it was the *INTENTION* of the *Last Parliament*, in this Kingdom, That a publick  

B

Coinage



THE Miseries of the POOR of this Kingdom, and the Decay of Trade, thro' the want of such Coin being very Great, the Silver therein exceeding scarce, and the Copper-Mine thereof taken out of the Nation at a low Rate, and much under the value thereof, little or no lawful Half-pence being in the Country, and its Copper-Shruff mixed and adulterated with Lead, and made into Counterfeit-Half-pence, of so low a value that Three shillings is not worth above Six-pence; and the quantity of such Half-pence, which pass for 600 l. is not really worth above 100 l. and the Nation is therefore cheated of 500 l. in every 600 l. and that Mischief may swell the same, in time, to the amount of many thousands (if not hundreds of thousand Pounds) loss to the Kingdom, unless prevented by setting on foot a lawful Coinage of Half-pence and Farthings therein.

The PROPOSER begs leave to shew, that in his Humble Apprehension, he fully Considered the late *S C H E M E*, contrived by a *Projector* for a Coynage in another Country, of the *Ore and Mine* thereof, for *This KINGDOM*; and as he conceives, " He was the earliest Person that " Discovered the ill Consequences it might have had on this Kingdom: " And had that Project succeeded, it might probably have sunk the Gold and Silver of this Nation, to the value of 383897 l. and left nothing in lieu thereof, but *Copper Half-pence*, which being so small and little in value, wou'd not Circulate in any other Country for more than *Farthings* a-piece, the same being exceedingly below *English Value*.

AND therefore he Proposes, That if His Majesty will be Pleased to Grant an Order for such a Coinage, (as is Meant and Intended by the *aforesaid Addressees*, to Demonstrate) that the Crown will gain, in Profit, 8000 l. and the Nation 200000 l. thereby: And such Coinage may al-

to remedy all such Evils and Hardships as the Nation labours under for want thereof; and he doubts not, but the same will, not only be very acceptable, but Beneficial and Satisfactory to the Nation in general. And further Proposes, that the said *Half-pence*, shall be Manufactured in this Kingdom; and be of equal weight, value, perfection and goodness with the best *English Half-pence* and *Farthings*.

THAT to the value of 250000 l. in such *Half-pence* may be Exported to the Plantations and other Parts of *Europe*, if the Nation pleases, as soon as the same are Coined; and the Kingdom may not only have Gold and Silver in lieu thereof, but a Profit in Exchange, at 9 l. per Cent. for the same: And so the Exportation of that Coin will be Encouraged.

BUT the Proposer is apprehensive, if *Copper Half-pence* be Coined in this Kingdom (by vertue of His Majesty's Grant) and not made fully as good, and of equal weight and value, in all respects, as *English Half-pence*, Attempts may be made, and Designs affected, to put this Nation in the like hazardous Condition as the *Late Scheme* would have brought it to, or as it is at present, by the want of a lawful Coin; and then (as he Humbly Conceives) it will not be in the Subjects Power to help themselves.

AND, the better to obviate how Beneficial such Coinage will be to the Crown and Nation, to the Increase even of 254297 l. of Gold and Silver thereby; the PROPOSER begs leave to mention the following Particulars, as an Abstract of the said SCHEME, and Observations, with other necessary Articles and Reasons therewith for a publick Coinage.

	1.	Page.
And, 1. That the Crown and Nation will gain by such Coinage	50000 —	13.
2. That the Nation will have an Increase in Cash, (as well Gold and Silver as Copper-money) of	200000 —	Ibidem.
3. That Counterfeit <i>Half-pence</i> will be suppressed, which will prevent the Nation from losing of 500 l. per Cent. which might probably swell in time to the amount of 200000 l. loss to the same.	200000 —	14.
4. That such Coinage will prevent the Exportation of Silver <i>Specie</i> , which creates an unreasonable Profit to the Exporter. of 3 l. per Diem, being	939 per Ann.	17.
5. And promote the Exportation of lawful <i>Half-pence</i> , to the Exporter's Profit of at least 9 l. per Diem, being	2817 per Ann.	Ibidem.
6. And		

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6. And likewise prevent any Person from putting this Nation in the like hazard of losing the said Sum of 383897 l. as it was in by the aforesaid Scheme, or any Sum whatsoever by a Coinage in another Country, for the use of this Kingdom.	383897	9
7. That such Coinage will advance the Copper-Mine and Ore of this Kingdom, and prevent it from being sent to other Countries, for their Copper; and thereby preserve in the Kingdom at least,	100000	19
8. And prevent the POOR from losing in the divers Collections made for 'em in Churches, Meeting-Houses, &c. by base and unlawful Half-pence, to at least the amount of	5000 per Ann.	14
9. That the Army and Treasury may have their Demands cleared in the least Compass of Time, by such Coinage, and the great Oppression, (by Extortion for the Change of Gold Specie) will be prevented; the latter being a loss to the publick of at least,	1000 per Ann. Ibidem	
10. That thereby the Coal-Trade of this Nation will be promoted to the preventing at least 100000 l. per Ann. of the Cash of the Country, from being sent out of the Kingdom for Coals.	100000 per Ann.	15
11. That to the value of a Million of Money, at least, by Computation, is in Plate Vessels, and divers Utensils of Silver, and the Interest of that large Sum is lost to the owners of the Plate, being	70000 per Ann.	
12. And double the Interest, which might be gained if that Sum was Employed in Trade, is all loss to the Publick, being	140000 per Ann.	15, 16.
13. And a further Charge of 4s. in the Pound, sterl. for the Fashion of the said Plate, Vessels and Utensils, is also created as a Profit to the Manufactures thereof, which amounts to 200000 l. loss also to the Owners of the Plate.	200000 per Ann.	
		14. That



14. That such Coinage may promote the finishing *Silver and Lead Mines*, and bring the Manufacture, both of *Linnen* and *Woollen* to such Perfection as to answer *Exportation* of the same; as also *Beef, Butter, Hides, Tallow*, and all other Country Commodities, will bring in their circulating Profits.

15. This Coinage will also pay part of the *Annual Charge* of the *Poor House*, by Reducing 1000 l. per Ann. thereof from the Inhabitants of the City and Suburbs of *Dublin*.

16. And the *Parliament House* being intended soon to be Re-build, the said Coinage will effectually defray the great Charge of that large Structure, part of which Charge is computed to amount to at least to 6000 l. at present.

17. The said 250000 cannot be Coined in less time than between four and five Years, which is 1000 l. per Week, and 1000 l. per Week of Gold, Silver and Copper money being added as an Increase to the Cash of the Country, by such Coinage, must consequently give great Pleasure to the Shop-keepers, Merchants, Traders, Dealers, the poor perishing Objects in the Streets, Lanes, Cellars, Garrets, Prisons and other Places in and about the City, and all other Parts of the Kingdom.

A N D since the said Coinage will be so very Beneficial to the Crown and Nation, as is herein before Represented, and as the Proposer Humbly conceives, will appear by the said SCHEME: And in regard no Application hath been heretofore made on such profitable Terms, as he hath now Proposed, 'tis humbly hoped, The People of *Ireland*, to whom this is offer'd for that Purpose, will be Assisting in the Promotion of so good a Work, and of such extensive Benefit to the Kingdom, that every particular Subject therein, will vastly share in the Happiness thereof.

If nothing more required such a Coinage than to feed the Hungry, cloath the Naked, relieve the Distressed, comfort the Afflicted, and to let the Prisoners go free, it might be a great Inducement to Promote this Coinage; for hereby all Pious and well-disposed Persons, wou'd be effectually enabled to

to the same with great allacrity. And when Providence has so bountifully provided such Treasure for us, from the Product of the Earth; to let the same lye Unimprov'd or Manufactur'd therein, will not the People of this Kingdom, in the Judgment of those of other Countries, be thought much wanting in Skill and Ingenuity, to Manufacture that Providential Bounty? And may not such *Distressed Objects*, (in the Great Day of Account, for want of that Relief, which may be thus obtained and distributed without any great loss or difficulty to the Charitable Donors) justly complain, *I was hungry, and ye gave me no Meat, I was thirsty, and ye gave me no Drink, I was a Stranger, and ye took me not in, Naked, and ye cloathed me not, Sick and in Prison, and ye visited me not? Go, &c.* Considering this severe Sentence pronounced in St. Matthew, chap. 25th. to prevent the dismal execution thereof, every person, who hath Ability to put his knowledge in practice, is inexcusable, if he hides those Talents; and therefore shou'd Improve 'em to the best Advantage. And can such Persons do it better, than by promoting such a Coinage, and thereby have it in their power to perform those necessary Duties required of every Christian? And those that have been such good and pious Benefactors to their *distressed Brethren*, what Comfort will it afford them in a dying Hour! And, considering the many and great Benefits that will accrue in Trade, and otherwise, by means of such a Coinage, Who can with Justice object to, or Argue against so good and necessary a WORK?

THE vast quantity of Raps in this Kingdom, and the *inconceivable Loss* the Nation sustains, and *Miseries of the POOR* by means thereof, is another very proper Consideration, to shew that a lawful Coinage of *Halfpence* and *Farthings* therein, is of absolute necessity: For the King's Coin being thus *Counterfeited*, and made into Base, Course, Adulterated Metall, Cast in Molds of Sand; and Lead and Copper mixed together, and probably all the valuable Metall that can be had, or brought from other Countries, corrupted, wasted, and consumed by means thereof, is a great Imposition on the Crown and the Subjects, and occasions great Miseries and Wants to the *Numerous poor Families and Objects in the Kingdom*. And if the Question were put, *Whose Image is on that pretended Coin?* it cou'd not be said to be *Cæsars*, but on the contrary, might rather, and with as great a Truth, be affirm'd to be *Judas's*.

THO' the Difficulties of the Kingdom are so exceeding great for want of small Change, yet 'tis highly necessary for the Nation to refuse this *Counterfeit Coin*, lest that before the next SITTING of PARLIAMENT (if a lawful Coinage is not set on Foot in the Kingdom) there may be Barrels or Tuns weight of Raps Made and Imposed thereon, and the Nation wounded.



ded both by Land and Sea thereby, and may be brought in Carts and Truckles, and wheeled from House to House, and so the Poor may Perish for want of Bread by means thereof, and cannot now pass the same, unless to such Persons as perhaps will give them not above One-third in value for the same.

THEREFORE 'tis Humbly Conceiv'd to be highly necessary, that the Minister, Church-Wardens, and Vestry-Men of each respective Parish should have the Case of the Poor so at Heart, as to lay the said *Grievance*, and their *Miseries* occasion'd by a spurious Coin, before the *LEGISLATURE*, in order to Redress that Grand Imposition, and stop its *dismal Effects*.

AND now, since the PROPOSER of this *Scheme*, is willing and fully Determined to make good the same, 'tis therefore Humbly hop'd so Great and Beneficial an Undertaking will be immediately Encouraged; and as the said *Scheme* carries so much Reason with it, and is so clearly demonstrated, there is no room for Objecting to the same, or doubting the Truth of what is therein Propos'd, and hopes the same will so appear in the Judgment of any Impartial and Judicious Reader; and that the Nation will concur in Promoting so Good and Beneficial a Work. And a further Motive to induce the same is, that the Grant is to be had from a KING, who is Graciously Condescending to any thing his PARLIAMENT will Request of Him, that has a tendency for his People's Benefit, and especially when this Undertaking is both for the Interest of his Majesty, and the Kingdom of *Ireland* in general, so as to gain 250000 l. thereby: Can it be reasonably suppos'd it will be refus'd? A PROPOSAL like *This*, was never heretofore made to the Nation; nor will the like Opportunity for its Benefits perhaps ever happen again. The Knowledge of Mettals is too great a Secret to be lost or despis'd; and none can or do know Them, but such Persons as have had a long Experience therein: 'Tis conceiv'd to be the Interest of every Man to engage in so good a Work; one Gentleman's Estate may perhaps produce Gold, anothers Silver, anothers Tinn, anothers Lead, and anothers Copper, and by Tryals and Improving the same, the knowledge thereof may be had, and so the Profit vastly Increase.

THERE is (*Communibus Annis*) to the value of 20000 l. per Ann. in *Block-Tin* imported into this Kingdom from the *Mines* of *Cornwall*, the Profit to such as wou'd Subscribe to that Article in its Import, may annually be 4000 l. it being bought at the quarterly Coinages.

THE *Pewterers*, *Braziers*, *Founders*, *Dyers*, *Brewers*, *Sidlers*, *Trunk-Makers*, *Clock-Makers*, *Stocken-Weavers*, *Pin-Makers*, *Smiths*, *Coach* and *Chair-Makers*, and a great number of other Trades do circulate by computation

tation 100000 l. annually. By the Purchase of *Block Tin, Brass and Copper* in this Kingdom, the Profit to such as are *Subscribers* to the same, will be vastly great, and the Expence very small : If the *Ore and Mine* of this Kingdom be Manufactured into the aforesaid Coinage, each Man that Subscribes 100 l. and not above 500 l. may gain 100 l. per Ann. by each 100 l. and the Nation will be greatly enriched thereby.

SUCH *Subscribers* may manage as the Copper Company of *England* do. The same Grant or Patent that is obtained for a Coinage, may be made so Extensive, as to be equal in Force and Validity with any *Charter or Grant*, so as to answer all its Purposes; as well to give Gold and Silver to the *Subjects* for such *Half-pence*, if burthened therewith, as also to Indemnify them from all Impositions whatsoever that may arise from such Coinage.

AND to remove all manner of *Objections* that may arise, the *Author* Proposes to give *Undeniable Security* to the CROWN and NATION, in case his Majesty shall think fit to permit him to Coin the said 250000 l. That the said 50000 l. thereof, shall be all Profit to the Crown, and 200000 l. added as an Increase of the Cash of this Kingdom; and that the Nation shall have Gold and Silver for the same, if required, as soon as it shall be Coined, and no Person or Persons whatsoever burthened therewith. The Proposer would not presume to Apply for this Coinage in any other manner than what occurs to him to be agreeable to the *Addresses* of the last PARLIAMENT; and humbly Hopes, his PROPOSALS for the same, will so APPEAR to be in the Wise Judgment of the LORDS and COMMONS in the present PARLIAMENT Assembled, and of all his Judicious and Impartial Readers.

AND in regard the Coinage for this Country is properly the Grant of His Majesty, and hath been always the Gift of his Royal Predecessors, to some One or Other of the *Subjects* of this Kingdom; and that it is apprehended, if the same be not so Granted, it may be obtained by some other Person, whose *Scheme* will probably prove as Discouraging and Destructive to this Nation, as that of a late *Projector*. 'Tis therefore Humbly Conceiv'd, if the PARLIAMENT, now in this Kingdom, will please to Address His Majesty, to put a MINT or Coinage on Foot, in this City of Dublin, the same will be Granted; But, if a private Person Applies for it, the same may not be had, tho' at great Expence, without the Consent of Parliament, pursuant to the said *Addresses* for that Purpose in the Last Sessions of Parliament in this Kingdom. 'Tis likewise Conceiv'd, to be the Interest of the PEOPLE of this Nation, who know their own Wants, to Intreat Earnestly

Earnestly of their *REPRESENTATIVES*, to Apply for the same. ALL WHICH is Humbly submitted to the Consideration of the People of IRELAND in general, and the Wisdom of PARLIAMENTS in Particular, by the *Author*; who wou'd with all Chearfulness do any thing whereby he might be Esteemed, *A Well-wisher to his Country*, and to be a real Instrument for its Happiness; And the Interest of, and Benefit of His Most Gracious MAJESTY, than which he has nothing more dear at Heart.

J. M.

### P O S T S C R I P T.

IT may perhaps be *Objected* by some Persons who have not *the Good of their Country at Heart*, That a Grant for a Coinage in this Kingdom will not be obtained from His present Majesty.

TO remove that, or any other *Objection* that may be raised against the same; Let such Persons read the *Answer* of His Late Majesty King George the Ist. to the *Addresse* of the Late Parliament in this Kingdom: And then surely no Man of Reason will say, That His present Majesty will not freely Consent to a Coinage in this Country, if Apply'd to for it, when the same is so much for the good of His People, who have had repeated Promises of His present Majesty's Gracious Inclinations to make His Subjects a Happy People. Is it reasonable to suppose His Majesty will not as readily accept of an *Address* of this nature, and grant the Desire thereof, as his Late Royal Father did, in removing the Inconveniencies of the aforesaid Grant? as may appear by his Answer to the said Address: Yes, surely, He will, for 'tis Absurdity to imagine otherwise. And on this Head, 'tis not improper to take notice of part of the said Answer to the said Address.

### GEORGE, R.

“ His Majesty is much Concern'd, to see that his Granting a Patent for Coining *Half pence* and *Farthings*, (agreeable to the Practice of His Royal PREDECESSORS) has given so much Uneasiness; And will do every thing that is in his Power for the Satisfaction of His People.

AND when His Late Majesty was pleased to give so Gracious an Answer to the aforesaid Addresse, and to give a vast Superiour Grant to one of his single Subjects, who is prodigiously Inferiour to, and in no sort of Comparison with the *Parliament of Ireland*; Who will and can raise a Doubt that his Present Majesty will Refuse a GRANT of this Nature, when Requested by His PARLIAMENT! And that what THEY do on this Head, will be found to be the Earnest Desire and Request of the Whole NATION in general.

E I N I S.



20-2-18

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